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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/446,550	12/22/1999	OLAF ERIK ALEXANDER ISELE	CM-1519Q	2485

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/446,550

Applicant(s)

ISELE ET AL

Examiner

C. Lynne Anderson

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobrin et al. (5,628,737) in view of Good et al. (5,843,056).

Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of a particulate filler material imbedded in the polymeric layer, and cracks formed around the particulate filler material. Dobrin discloses an absorbent article 20, as shown in figure 2, comprising a core region 74, and a chassis region 76 surrounding the core region 74. The article 20 further comprises a laminate 95, as shown in figure 3, which extends into both the core region 74 and the chassis region 76 to form a core backsheet and a chassis backsheet. The laminate 95 comprises a polymeric layer 26, as described in column 6, lines 42-43, and a fibrous layer 90, as described in column 9, lines 51-52. The laminate 95 is a breathable, unitary layer. The laminate 95 comprises apertures 84 in the chassis region 76, giving the chassis region 76 a higher degree of breathability than the core region 74.

Good discloses an absorbent article 20, as shown in figure 1. The backsheet 32 of the absorbent article 20 is formed of a laminate comprising a polymeric layer 60 and a fibrous layer 62. The polymeric layer 60 is vapor permeable, as disclosed in column

7, lines 26-30. The vapor permeability of the polymeric layer 60 is due to the presence of particulate filler material embedded in the polymeric layer 60. The breathability of the polymeric layer 60 is increased by cracks formed around the particulate filler material, as disclosed in column 8, lines 63-66.

Dobrin discloses a polymeric material for use as the backsheet of an absorbent article, and further discloses the polymeric material should be air permeable, as described in column 6, lines 41-42. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to construct the polymeric film material of Dobrin with the particulate filler material of Good to increase the air permeability of the film.

With respect to claim 2, the polymeric layer 26 is wider than the fibrous layer 90, as described in column 10, lines 7-9.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but remains silent as to the MVTR of the core backsheet material. Vapor Transmission Rates of materials deemed breathable are well-known in the art to be greater than 1500 g/24hrs/m^2 . It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to construct a backsheet intended to be breathable of a material having a MVTR of greater than 1500 g/24hrs/m^2 .

With respect to claims 5 and 6, Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but remains silent as to how much greater the transmission rate of the chassis region is than the transmission rate of the core region. The chassis region is apertured to increase its breathability, and therefore has a higher transmission rate than the core region.

With respect to claim 7, Good discloses the filler material comprises calcium carbonate, as described in column 9, line 1.

With respect to claims 8-9, Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention, but remains silent as to the basis weights of the polymeric layer and the laminate. Dobrin discloses a polymeric film layer 26 that is flexible and breathable, and has a thickness of as little as 0.012 mm, as described in column 6, lines 35-45. The fibrous layer 90 of the laminate 95 is also flexible and breathable, as described in column 9, lines 56-58. It is well-known in the art that lower density materials are more flexible and breathable, and thin, low density materials have low basis weights as well. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to construct the polymeric film layer with a basis weight of less than 50 gsm, and a laminate with a basis weight of less than 70 gsm, so the laminate may be flexible and breathable.

With respect to claim 10, the fibrous layer 90 is a non-woven web, as described in column 9, line 52.

With respect to claims 11-13, Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention, but remains silent as to the method of joining the fibrous layer and the polymeric film layer to form a laminate. Heat or melt bonding, extrusion coating, and adhesive are all well-known methods for forming a laminate between two layers. It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to join the fibrous layer and the polymeric film layer together using heat or melt bonding, extrusion coating, or adhesive, to form a laminate.

With respect to claim 14, Dobrin discloses a baby diaper, as shown in figure 1.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (703) 308-1957. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 306-4520 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3761

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

CUA

cla

November 19, 2002



DENNIS RUHL
PRIMARY EXAMINER